

Draft
Finding of No Significant Impact

Property Outgrant for US 1 and Old Colchester Road
U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir
Directorate of Public Works and Logistics
Fort Belvoir, Virginia

1.0 Name of Action: Property outgrant to Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to widen Jefferson Davis Highway (US 1) and realign Old Colchester Road along the west boundary of Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

2.0 Description of Proposed Action: Under the Proposed Action, the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir would outgrant to VDOT 1.322 acres (0.535 ha) of land to support the widening of US 1 and realignment of Old Colchester Road (OCR). Based on the VDOT's proposed project, U.S. 1 would be widened to six lanes and OCR would be widened and realigned to the east to meet Telegraph Road. This outgrant would allow widening a 0.477-mile (0.768 km) segment of US 1 along Belvoir's north boundary to Main Post and realigning a 0.156-mile (0.251 km) segment of OCR along Fort Belvoir's west boundary.

This project represents one portion of a plan to widen US 1 through Fort Belvoir. Impacts from future phases of the widening would be addressed in follow-on environmental analyses.

3.0 Project Alternatives: In addition to the Proposed Action, three alternatives (I, II, III), and a No Action Alternative were evaluated in this EA. Alternatives I - III described in this document were proposed to lessen the disturbance to Fort Belvoir property and decrease the amount of right-of-way required.

4.0 Environmental Consequences: The Environmental Assessment (EA) identified potential impacts of the Proposed Action and other alternatives and described measures to reduce effects on human health and the environment. Impacts identified and mitigation measures developed are presented below.

Land Use: The Proposed Action would result in outgrant of 1.322 acres (0.535 hectares) to include both a permanent and temporary construction easement, thereby changing land use from natural woodland to road shoulders and graded slopes. After grading is complete trees would be planted and ground cover would be established.

Natural Resources: Clearing and grading to widen US 1 and realign OCR would have a direct, short-term impact on the topography due to clearing and grading. In addition, soil contamination could occur during construction as a result of small vehicle repair, maintenance and fueling if motor oils, hydraulic oils, and fuels were accidentally released. The Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan would be implemented to establish proper procedures for construction vehicle parking, fueling and maintenance.

Short-term impacts to soils could include erosion due to grading and potential exposure of the seasonal perched water table during construction. Best Management Practices (BMPs) set forth in the 1992 Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook would control and reduce soil erosion. The Proposed Action would require the clearing of 1.3 acres (0.52 hectares) of deciduous forest and wildlife habitat. Removal of the forest and wildlife habitat is considered a minor impact compared to Fort Belvoir's total forest and wildlife habitat. No impacts to threatened and endangered species would occur.

The Proposed Action would have a minimal effect on environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands, Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas, aquatic habitat, and habitat of rare, threatened and endangered species.

Cultural Resources: The Proposed Action would affect Pohick Church and OCR, two local historic and archeological resources. Although, road construction equipment activity may increase vibration levels within the church building, this short-term impact would be monitored to ensure no structural damage.

The proposed realignment of OCR would alter the road; however, based on VDOT's ongoing coordination with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR), no adverse effect is expected.

Air Quality: Air quality within the project study area, in the short-term, would be degraded due to fugitive dust and emissions of volatile organic hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide during construction. Once the road is complete, air quality is expected to improve as compared to pre-construction due to improved traffic flow.

Noise: Due to a slight increase in traffic volume after construction, the Proposed Action would increase the noise level. However, the noise level would not exceed acceptable Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) levels.

Socioeconomic: The Proposed Action would have little impact on demographics, ethnic or minority population centers, or taxes and expenditures.

Transportation & Traffic: Transportation flow and safety along US 1 would improve with the upgrading of the Telegraph Road / OCR intersection with adequate turn lanes, signals, and proper geometrics for maximum traffic flow. The level of service (LOS) rating would be upgraded. Construction would help to handle the increase in commuter traffic associated with the planned growth at Fort Belvoir.

5.0 Conclusions: On reviewing the environmental assessment and other project information, the Garrison Commander of the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir has concluded that the Proposed Action will not have a significantly adverse affect on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

Notice of Availability: This Environmental Assessment is available for public review at the Directorate of Public Works and Logistics, Fort Belvoir, Virginia and at John Marshall, Lorton,

and Sherwood Hall branches of the Fairfax County Public Libraries. A copy of this notice and the Environmental Assessment may be viewed on the World Wide Web at www.belvoir.army.mil.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments for consideration on or before 30 days after publication of this notice to **Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, 9430 Jackson Loop, Suite 107, ATTN: ANFB-ELE, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5130**. E-mail comments will be accepted at environmental@belvoir.army.mil. The Proposed Action will not be implemented before this date. For more information, contact Mr. Patrick M. McLaughlin at (703) 806-4007.